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Dated: July 19, 2006 Signature: Judy Calem

(Judy Calem)

Docket No.: 564462000820
Client Docket No. D1180-2US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Dan E. ROBERTSON et al.

Application No.: 09/903,410

Filed: July 10, 2001

For: ENZYMES HAVING ESTERASE ACTIVITY
AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

Confirmation No.: 8980

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Rebecca E. Prouty, Ph.D.

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RCE RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office action mailed January 19, 2006 ("the OA"), Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. A response was initially due April 19, 2005. Applicants herein submit a petition for a three month extension of time to July 19, 2006, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, with the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

This response is accompanied by a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. Thus, the finality of the outstanding final office action will be withdrawn and Applicants are entitled to have this first submission for this RCE entered and considered on the merits.

Amendment to the claims is reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

The following documents are enclosed herewith:

- Transmittal letter, postcard;
- Request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114;
- Petition for a 3 month extension of time;
- Copy of petition (dated July 12, 2006) to expedite review of Applicants' March 24, 2006, petition;
- Sequence alignment comparing SEQ ID NO:36 and SEQ ID NO:39 (two color copies).